



**LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Henry J. Mroz Administration Office**  
**155 Merrimack Street**  
**Lowell, Massachusetts 01852**

**William J. Samaras**  
**Mayor and Chairperson**

## **Policy Subcommittee Meeting**

**Tel: (978) 674-4324**  
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**Jackie Doherty**  
**Vice-Chairperson**

**Wednesday, April 3, 2019**  
**City Hall Council Chambers**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**Andre P. Descoteaux**  
**Robert J. Hoey Jr.**  
**Dominik Hok Lay**  
**Connie A. Martin**  
**Gerard Nutter**

Subcommittee Members Present:

Chairperson Gerry Nutter, Jackie Doherty and Connie Martin

School Committee Members Present:

Andy Descoteaux, Robert Hoey and Dominik Hok Lay

School Department Personnel Present:

Jeannine M. Durkin, Acting Superintendent  
Attorney James Hall, Legal Counsel

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Chairperson Gerry Nutter called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. The Subcommittee update is in response to the following motion:

Motion by School Committee Member Gerry Nutter, which was approved at the February 13, 2019, School Committee Meeting:

"To refer agenda item # 9.IV. Response to Gerard Nutter's Motion Regarding a Policy on Service Animals to a Policy Subcommittee meeting for further discussion."

The following agenda items were discussed:

1. **Policy on Service Animals**
2. **Time Allowed for Speakers under Public Participation**

Attorney Hall informed the Subcommittee that he has reviewed the law relative to service animals in schools as well as policies regarding animals in schools that were produced by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. Attorney Hall provided the Subcommittee with a policy that gives the Principal or Superintendent a checklist for approval. The policy states that the use of animals to achieve specific curriculum objectives may be allowed by the building Principal provided student health and safety

is not jeopardized. The individual requesting that the animal be brought to schools is responsible for adhering to "Animals in the Classroom: Recommendations for Schools" and other conditions established by the Principal to protect the health and well-being of all students.

Attorney Hall stated that Principals, in consultation with the Health Services Providers in each building, shall utilize the Massachusetts Department of Public Health publication "Animals in the Classroom: Recommendations for Schools" and review student health records to determine which animals may be allowed in the school building. No animals may be brought to school or kept in the school, classroom, office or common areas that may negatively impact the health of any student who must utilize that area. The decision of the Principal shall be final.

The following conditions for allowing animals were outlined in the policy:

- The Principal of the building must approve all animals to be brought into the classroom.
- The animal (to be brought in) must have an education purpose.
- The animal must be free of disease and if applicable have a rabies certification.
- The animal must not be a wild or stray animal (dead or alive) unless under the control of a licensed professional.
- The animal must not be poisonous.
- Where appropriate, the source of the animal should be from a licensed professional company with certification of health.

Ms. Doherty asked about the regulations around horses.

Attorney Hall stated that they're permitted under certain circumstances.

**Ms. Doherty made a motion to recommend that this policy be forwarded to the full School Committee for approval; seconded by Ms. Martin. 3 yeas APPROVED**

The next agenda item was regarding time allowed for speakers under public participation.

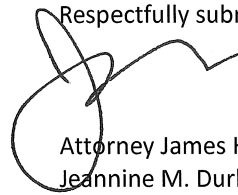
Mr. Hoey stated that most speakers stay within the three (3) minutes, but some need the five (5) minutes.

Mr. Lay stated that the City Council allows five (5) minutes so he believes the School Committee should too.

**Ms. Martin recommended that the School Committee extend the public participation time allotment from three (3) minutes to five (5) minutes; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 3 yeas APPROVED**

**Ms. Martin made a motion to adjourn at 6:10 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 3 yeas APPROVED**

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney James Hall, Legal Counsel, for  
Jeannine M. Durkin, Acting Superintendent  
and Acting Secretary, Lowell School  
Committee

JPH/mes